



**Village of Belleville**  
**24 W. Main Street**  
**P. O. Box 79**

**Telephone: 608-424-3341 • Fax: 608-424-3423**

**BELLEVILLE, WISCONSIN 53508**

February 5, 2010

The Honorable Congresswoman Tammy Baldwin  
United States House of Representatives  
2446 Rayburn Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Baldwin:

The Lake Belle View Restoration Project is a unique proposal to restore the ecological health of Lake Belle View, a portion of the Upper Sugar River, and the associated wetlands, and to engage the community in protecting these valuable resources. Lake Belle View is a mill pond on the Upper Sugar River. In the area where these two bodies of water join, they co-mingle freely.

Unfortunately, the ecological integrity and recreational value of the lake have been degraded over many years as the Upper Sugar River has delivered large amounts of sediment and excessive nutrients from the upstream watershed. This sedimentation resulted in a severe reduction in lake depth, poor water quality, frequent algal blooms, low aquatic plant diversity, and a fishery dominated by carp. The degrading of this important community centerpiece has impacted recreational activity and reduced the potential for downtown commerce. It is no longer recommended that local residents swim in the lake due to high bacteria counts and carp is now the primary fish species found in Lake Belle View. There has been a loss of coldwater fisheries in the Sugar River above and below Lake Belle View.

The proposed restoration includes separation of the lake and river via an earthen berm to ensure reduction of sediment and nutrient loads; construction of a bike/pedestrian trail on the earthen berm; dredging to deepen portions of the lake and stocking of fish that will contribute to the health of the lake and enhance recreation; restoration of island wetlands with native species; and reduction of erosion.

Benefits will include job creation, downtown revitalization; regional tourism and involvement of community volunteers in monitoring and planting of wetland habitat. Increased downtown commerce is anticipated from area residents and visitors traveling to boat, fish, and picnic within the restored waterways and at Community Park.

For 30 years the community of Belleville has planned the Lake Belle View Restoration Project and worked together to raise funds through a local tax referendum, grants from the Wisconsin DNR, contributions from a neighboring community, and private donations. This is a project with wide community support.

Final engineering is nearly finished, the lake has been de-watered, and construction is planned to begin June 2010. However, federal funds are still needed for this important restoration work to succeed.

In summary, the Lake Belle View Restoration Project will transform the community and restore valuable waterways and surrounding wetlands. With assistance from the federal government, an important environmental and economic impact can be made, for the benefit of all those in or visiting the community of Belleville.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Terry Kringle". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Terry" being more prominent than the last name "Kringle".

Terry Kringle  
Village President

C: Senator Herb Kohl  
Senator Russell Feingold  
Wisconsin Senator, Jon Erpenbach  
Amber Shipley, Legislative Representative  
Helen Forbeck, Legislative Representative  
Belleville Village Board Members  
Lake Restoration Committee Members